

Message Text

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ORIGIN OC-03

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P 122130Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 060917

FOR CEO-T BORT

FOLLOWING REPEAT PANAMA 1462 ACTION SECSTATE FEB 28.

QUOTE: UNCLAS PANAMA 1462

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM PN

SUBJECT: TELEPHONE REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND INSTALLATION

REF: 75 PANAMA 6284

1. AS RESULT OF AGE AND POOR GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF EMBASSY'S PABX EQUIPMENT (AE 301) OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME TELEPHONE SYSTEM IS OPERATING AT LESS THAN BARE EFFICIENCY AND DETERIORATING RAPIDLY. THIS IS HAVING A VERY SERIOUS ADVERSE EFFECT ON OPERATIONS WHICH WE MUST REMEDY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL DETERIORATION OF THE SYSTEM WE FOUND THAT DURING AN OUTAGE OF BOTH CITY AND EMERGENCY POWER THIS PAST WEEK WE HAD NO TELEPHONES BECAUSE THE BATTERIES FOR THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM WERE DEAD. OC/PE TELEPHONE TECHNICIAN WHO RECENTLY VISITED POST WILL CONFIRM CONDITION OF PABX AND LEVEL OF MAINTENANCE.

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3. IN ANTICIPATION OF MORE PROBLEMS, THE POST CONTACTED A RECOMMENDED EMPLOYEE OF THE TELEPHONE DIVISION OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY FOR ASSISTANCE. HE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING ESTIMATES REPRESENTING ONE TIME COST TO POST:

A. REPAIR AND PERFORM ROUTINE MAINTENANCE ON PABX SYSTEM. SOME PARTS WILL BE PROVIDED BY EMPLOYEE. - 31,100.00

B. MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE TELEPHONE SYSTEM INSTALLED IN THE NEW CONSULAR SECTION. - \$150.00

C. COST OF MOVING THE ATTENDANT'S CONSOLE FROM ITS PRESENT LOCATION TO A ROOM ADJACENT TO THE CHANCERY MAIN ENTRANCE. PURPOSE OF THIS MOVE IS SO THAT WE CAN COMBINE THE POSITIONS OF TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR AND RECEPTIONIST. - \$150.00

D. COST OF INSTALLING TWO 1A2 KEY SYSTEMS, SYSTEMS ARE AT POST. - \$2,600.00

4. THE EMBASSY IS ALSO EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF TERMINATING OUR MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH THE LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPANY AND ENTERING INTO A NEW ONE WITH THE EMPLOYEE FROM THE PANCANAL COMPANY, COST FIGURE HAS NOT YET BEEN DEVELOPED.

5. THE EMBASSY REQUESTS IMMEDIATE APPROVAL FOR INCREASE OF \$4,000.00 TO POST ALLOTMENT 5132 SO THE ABOVE PROJECTS CAN BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT DELAY. SHOULD INSUFFICIENT FUNDS BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL THESE PROJECTS WE SUGGEST ITEM D COULD BE COMPLETED BY A DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE TECHNICIAN.

6. YOUR EARLY ASSISTANCE WILL BE APPRECIATED.

7. PLEASE ADVISE.
JORDE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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